

What is "Give Graffiti the Brush"?"

Give Graffiti the Brush is a comprehensive program established by the City of Covina to combat graffiti in our community. It involves a multifaceted approach including public education, community involvement, collaboration between local governmental entities, schools and businesses, graffiti eradication and strict enforcement of graffiti related laws.

What do I do when I see graffiti in Covina?

When you see graffiti in Covina you may report it by e-mail to graffiti@ci.covina.ca.us or you may call our hotline at (626) 858-4452. You will be asked to leave a recorded message telling us as specifically as you can where the graffiti is. You will also be asked to leave you callback telephone number in case we need to contact you for further information.

Can I be anonymous when I report graffiti?

Yes. Although we would like to be able to contact you if needed, you need not leave contact information.

If I leave my name and telephone number will it be kept confidential?

Yes.

What do I do if I see somebody in the act of tagging?

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STOP OR IN ANY WAY CONTACT A GRAFFITI VANDAL. These

vandals have been known to be armed and in a recent case in a local San Gabriel Valley city, taggers shot and killed a man that tried to stop them. While staying in a safe place (preferably where the tagger(s) cannot see you), call the police right away. Give the dispatcher as much information as you can about the crime. You will be asked for the location of the crime, description of the suspect(s), description of any associated vehicle and direction of travel if the suspect(s) leave. The Covina Police telephone number to use to report a crime in progress is (626) 858-4413.

Who removes the graffiti?

Graffiti in the City of Covina is removed by a private contractor who also removes graffiti in other cities including Azusa, West Covina and parts of Los Angeles County such as the unincorporated areas of Covina.

Who do I call if I see graffiti in another area such as County Covina?

To report graffiti in unincorporated areas of Covina call the Los Angeles County Public Works Department toll free at (800) 657-4357.

How is the graffiti removed?

Graffiti is removed from different surfaces in different ways. Previously painted surfaces will be painted with color matched paint. Unpainted porous surfaces may be cleaned via pressure washer, steam cleaning or bicarbonate soda blasting. Unpainted non-porous surfaces may be pressure washed with approved chemical/solvent treatments or cleaned via bicarbonate soda blasting.

What are the most common types of graffiti?

Gang

Gang graffiti is dangerous. Graffiti is how gangs identify "turf". This type of graffiti may spell out a gang name, their geographic area or a numeric identifier. It can sometimes show an entire list of gang nicknames called a "roll call" or "roster." Gang graffiti serves several purposes, all of which is understood by other "gang bangers," even members of rival sets. Graffiti has been called the newspaper or bulletin boards for gangs and communicates many messages, including violent challenges, warnings, and pronouncements of deeds accomplished or about to occur. There are no gangs that are based in or claim Covina as their, "home." The overwhelming majority of graffiti in Covina is NOT gang graffiti.

Tagger or Hip Hop

This graffiti is the most prevalent in Covina. Tagger graffiti vandals like to be called "graffiti writers". Graffiti is a culture or a way of life for most graffiti writers. Graffiti writers gain recognition and status from their peers by placing distinctive "tags or graffiti monikers" in as many places as possible, in the most high-risk places, and by how artistic the graffiti is. The intent is for other graffiti writers to see the graffiti.

Hate

This type of graffiti expresses messages of hate against some members or groups within a community. Quite often, these are either expressed in symbols or in short messages putting down someone's race, religion or ethnicity.

Generic

Generic graffiti is usually innocent in nature, yet can carry the same expensive price tag for removal. Often expressions of love (Johnny loves Suzy), school name/year of graduation (Central High, Class of 2005), or defacing or unauthorized markings of public and private property fall under this category.

Snipe

This is the illegal attachment of flyers and other paper notices to utility or light poles, trees and vacant buildings. Besides creating an eyesore, snipe ads are difficult and expensive to remove. Items attached to trees with nails and staples cause wounds that can lead to disease.